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Summary record of the 34th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/64/554, A/64/660/Add.16 and A/64/764)

Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (A/64/556, A/64/660/Add.15 and A/64/783)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/554), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $574,916,500 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $574,401,700, leaving an unencumbered balance of $514,800, which represented near full utilization of the approved resources. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements under United Nations police personnel and air transportation, partially offset by increased requirements for construction services and materials and firefighting equipment; higher costs for generator fuel; and additional requirements for international staff. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 44 of the performance report.

2. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/764), he recalled that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $732,393,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Pending submission of the full budget proposal for 2010/11 at the main part of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a commitment authority, with assessment, of $380,402,700 was requested for the financing of the Mission for the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. The levels approved in 2009/10 had been applied for the first six months of 2010/11, subject to some adjustments for proposed staffing requirements, together with additional requirements related to the increase in authorized military and police personnel, support to MINUSTAH staff, assistance to the Haitian community, and financing of the Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 15 of the note.

3. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/556), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $440,795,500 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $424,073,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $16,722,500, which represented an implementation rate of 96.2 per cent. The main causes of the variance were delays in the construction of accommodation and office space; the decision to postpone construction of the aviation workshop and the Abeche airfield; and the delayed commencement of repair and maintenance services by the contractor, partially offset by additional requirements for mission subsistence allowances; rations; and the acquisition of prefabricated facilities to provide single occupancy accommodation for military contingents. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 51 of the performance report.

4. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for MINURCAT for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010 (A/64/783), he recalled that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $690,753,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Pending submission of the full budget proposal for 2010/11 at the main part of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a commitment authority, with assessment, of $246,598,800 was requested for the financing of the Mission for the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2010, on the basis of a proportion of approved levels in 2009/10 to account for the first six months of operations in 2010/11, subject to a number of technical adjustments. That approach provided resources to support the existing operational profile of the Mission and had been prepared prior to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1923 (2010), regarding the Mission's future mandate, on 25 May 2010. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 13 of the note.

5. **Mr. Kelapile** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's reports on the financing of MINUSTAH (A/64/660/Add.16) and MINURCAT (A/64/660/Add.15), said that the two reports contained the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the

Missions' respective performance reports for 2008/09, as well as the proposed financing arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. While the Advisory Committee had taken note of the extenuating circumstances surrounding the submission of requests for commitment authority, it recalled the need to ensure that established budget procedures were followed. It therefore requested that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly, as early as possible at the main part of its sixty-fifth session, the full budget proposals for the two Missions, in order to allow the Assembly to take informed decisions on the resources required.

6. With regard to MINUSTAH, the Advisory Committee pointed out that proposals for the establishment of temporary positions and reclassification of posts should be considered in the context of the full budget presentation, in accordance with established budgetary procedures, and not as part of a request for commitment authority. The Advisory Committee would take up the proposals for the establishment of 324 temporary positions and the upgrading of 32 existing international posts, included in the request for commitment authority, when it considered the full budget for 2010/11, based on the outcome of the planned comprehensive review of the Mission's staffing requirements. It therefore recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, not exceeding an amount of $375,000,000 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010, which represented a reduction of $5,402,700 compared with the amount requested by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations were without prejudice to any further recommendations that it might make regarding future requests for staffing and other resources for MINUSTAH.

7. With regard to MINURCAT, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve an amount of $184,949,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 15 November 2010. Bearing in mind the adoption of Security Council resolution 1923 (2010) on 25 May 2010, after the Advisory Committee had made its recommendation, it was now all the more important that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a full budget proposal to the General Assembly as early as possible at the main part of its sixty-fifth session, so that the Assembly could take a decision on the resources required for the Mission to fulfil its revised mandate pursuant to that resolution.

8. **Ms. Pepin-Hallé** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the three delegations expressed their sincere condolences for the tragic loss of MINUSTAH staff in the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 and commended the Mission for its invaluable contribution to the relief effort. In the months since the earthquake, MINUSTAH had been required to operate in one of the most challenging environments ever faced by a United Nations mission and, despite its own substantial losses of staff and infrastructure, it was now called upon to play an expanding role in support of the international response to the emergency.

9. The three delegations believed that the Mission, which had made significant progress prior to the earthquake in helping Haiti move towards lasting security and sustainable development, would continue to play a crucial role in collective efforts to set the country back on a path towards long-term prosperity. They were confident that the gains seen before the earthquake had not been entirely lost and that the country was capable of "building back better" with the support of the international community and MINUSTAH. Exceptional efforts were, in particular, required to help Haitian institutions, which had suffered a serious blow at a crucial phase in their development. To that end, it was important to provide enhanced support for MINUSTAH, while ensuring the strict accountability of all implementing partners.

10. Recalling that the Security Council, in its resolution 1908 (2010), had endorsed the recommendation to increase the overall force levels of MINUSTAH in support of the immediate recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts, and that the Secretary-General, in his recent report on MINUSTAH (S/2010/200), had recommended a surge effort to support the ongoing relief effort, maintain a secure and stable environment, and reinforce the Haitian Government's authority, the three delegations agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to enter into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010 and commended him for his prudent approach in basing the request for commitment authority on the 2009/10 appropriation. They would carefully examine the full budget proposal for 2010/11 when it was submitted to the General Assembly at the

main part of its sixty-fifth session and requested that MINUSTAH should make every effort to fill current and future posts with qualified Haitians.

11. Lastly, she stressed that the benefits to be gained from enhancing coordination and the coherence of the United Nations system on the ground were now even greater than in 2008, when the three delegations had commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to coordinate the execution of the community violence reduction programme with the United Nations Development Programme.

12. **Ms. Corti** (Argentina) said it was understandable that the Secretary-General had been unable to submit a full budget proposal for MINUSTAH at the current session. Her delegation supported the request for a commitment authority and was in favour of providing the Mission with all the resources it needed to implement its mandate. In that connection, she wondered whether a commitment authority in line with the appropriation for the previous period would be adequate. She trusted that the Secretary-General would inform the General Assembly in due course if additional funds were required.

13. **Mr. Brant** (Brazil) expressed concern at the overly cautious approach taken by the Secretary-General in preparing the request for commitment authority to finance MINUSTAH from 1 July to 31 December 2010. In view of the Mission's increased activity in recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts, and its support for humanitarian assistance, including the relocation of internally displaced persons, an amount equivalent to half of the original appropriation for 2009/10, subject to adjustments related to proposed staffing requirements, might not provide sufficient resources for the Mission to fulfil its activities and might therefore result in the implementation of some activities being delayed until after the approval of the full budget for 2010/11. The budget proposal for 2010/11 could also end up being more than double the amount of the commitment authority currently under consideration.

14. His delegation questioned the Advisory Committee's apparently arbitrary recommendation to reduce the amount of the commitment authority by some $5 million. With regard to the pace of recruitment of new staff, it should be noted that the cost estimates for the proposed additional temporary positions contained in the request for commitment authority already took into account a vacancy factor of 50 per cent. In view of the Mission's urgent needs, action on requests for additional staffing requirements should not wait until after the full budget proposal for 2010/11 had been submitted to the General Assembly, though any action taken must be without prejudice to the Assembly's consideration of staffing requirements in the context of that full budget presentation. Moreover, the comprehensive review of staffing requirements mentioned in the Advisory Committee's report (A/64/660/Add.16) should not entail additional work for the Mission but should be part of the regular review carried out in preparation for the budget submission.

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.40: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

15. **Mr. Råsbrant** (Sweden), speaking as the coordinator of the informal consultations on sub-item 158 (b), said the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on the text of a draft resolution.

16. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.40, submitted by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

17. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that Israel had yet again failed to comply with the many General Assembly resolutions requesting that it should pay the amount of $1,117,005 resulting from the incident at Qana in 1996. Aware of the important role played by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the Group felt compelled to submit a draft resolution that stressed Israel's obligation to pay that amount.

18. **The Chairman** said that action would be taken on the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.